Fig. 1
(PRIOR ART)

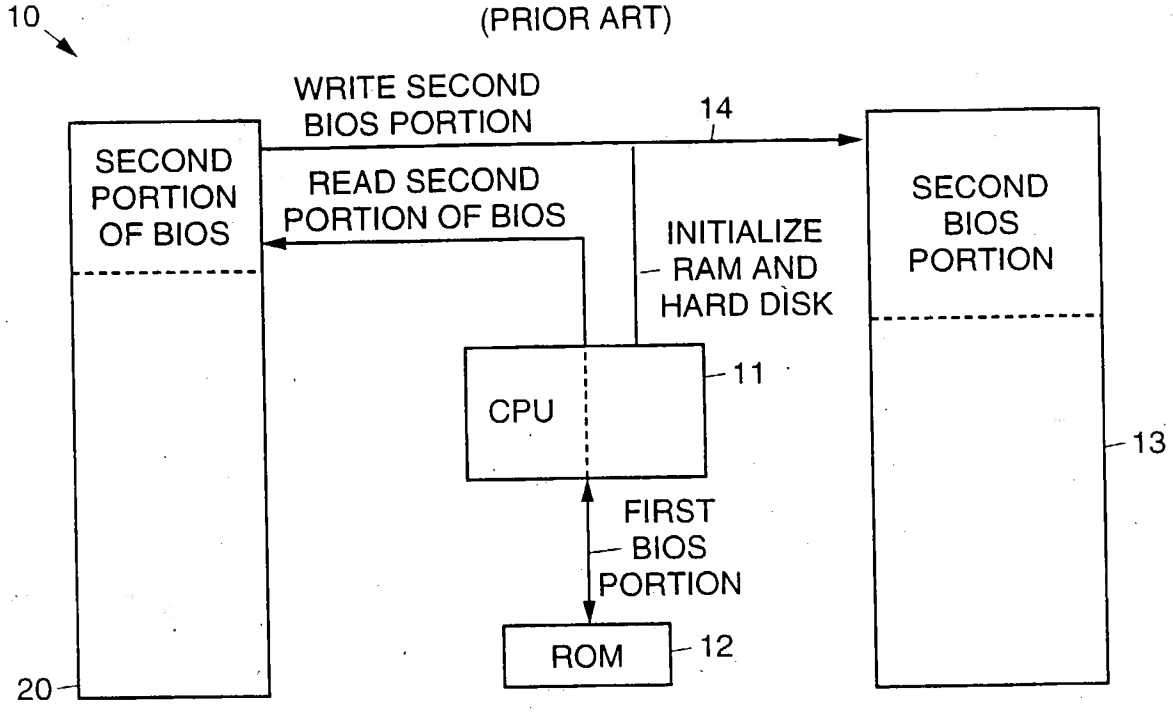


Fig. 2

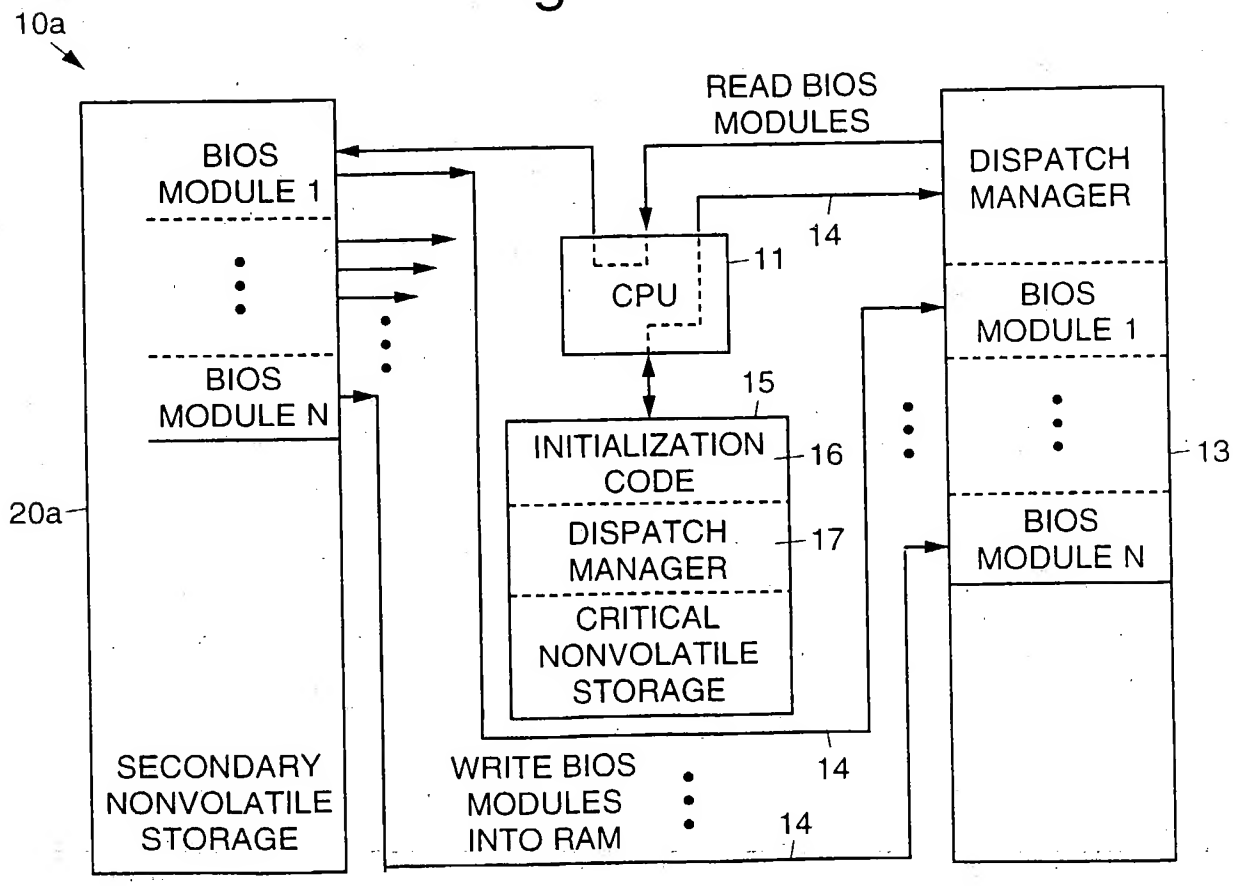


Fig. 3

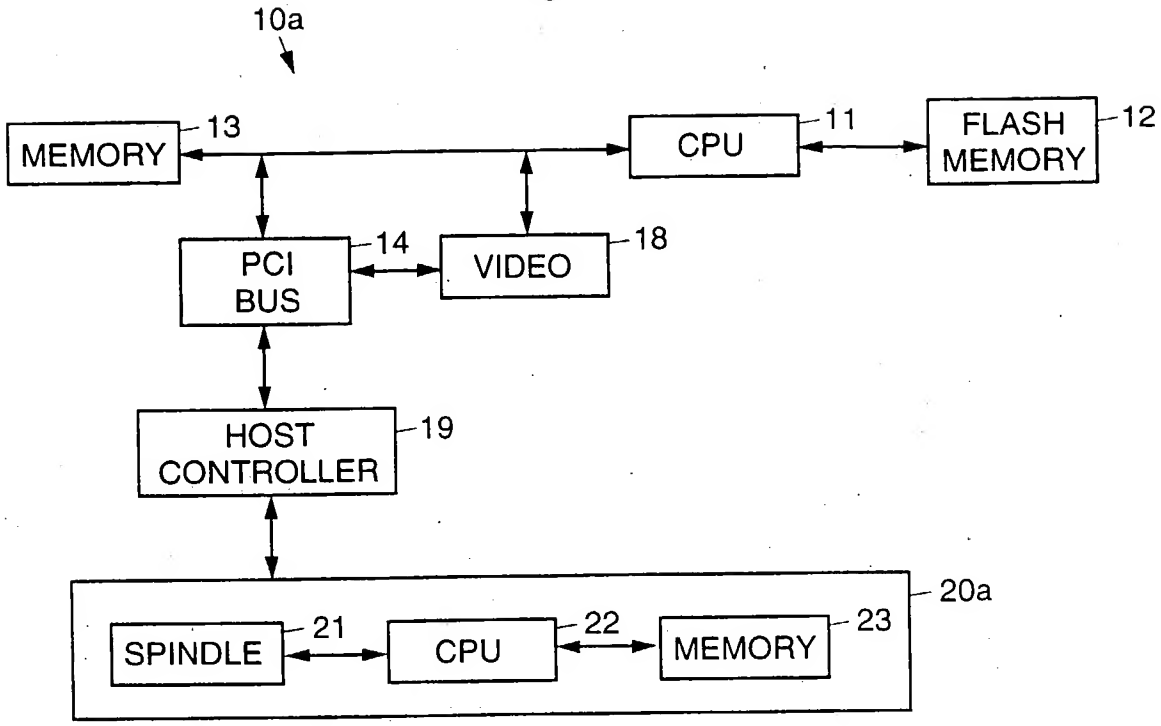

10a
MEMORY
13
CPU
11
FLASH MEMORY
12
PCI BUS
14
VIDEO
18
HOST CONTROLLER
19
20a
SPINDLE
21
CPU
22
MEMORY
23

Fig. 4

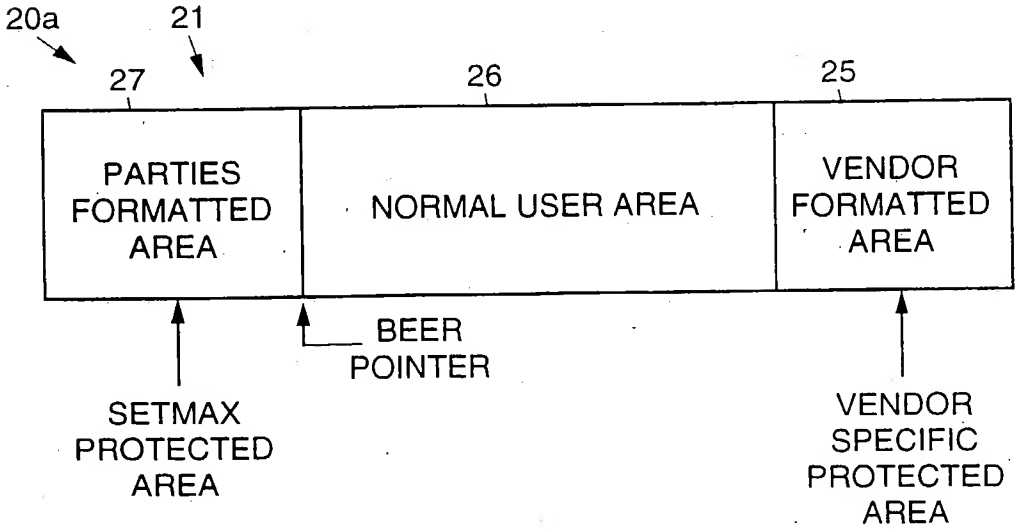

20a
21
27
26
25
PARTIES FORMATTED AREA
NORMAL USER AREA
VENDOR FORMATTED AREA
BEER POINTER
SETMAX PROTECTED AREA
VENDOR SPECIFIC PROTECTED AREA

Fig. 5

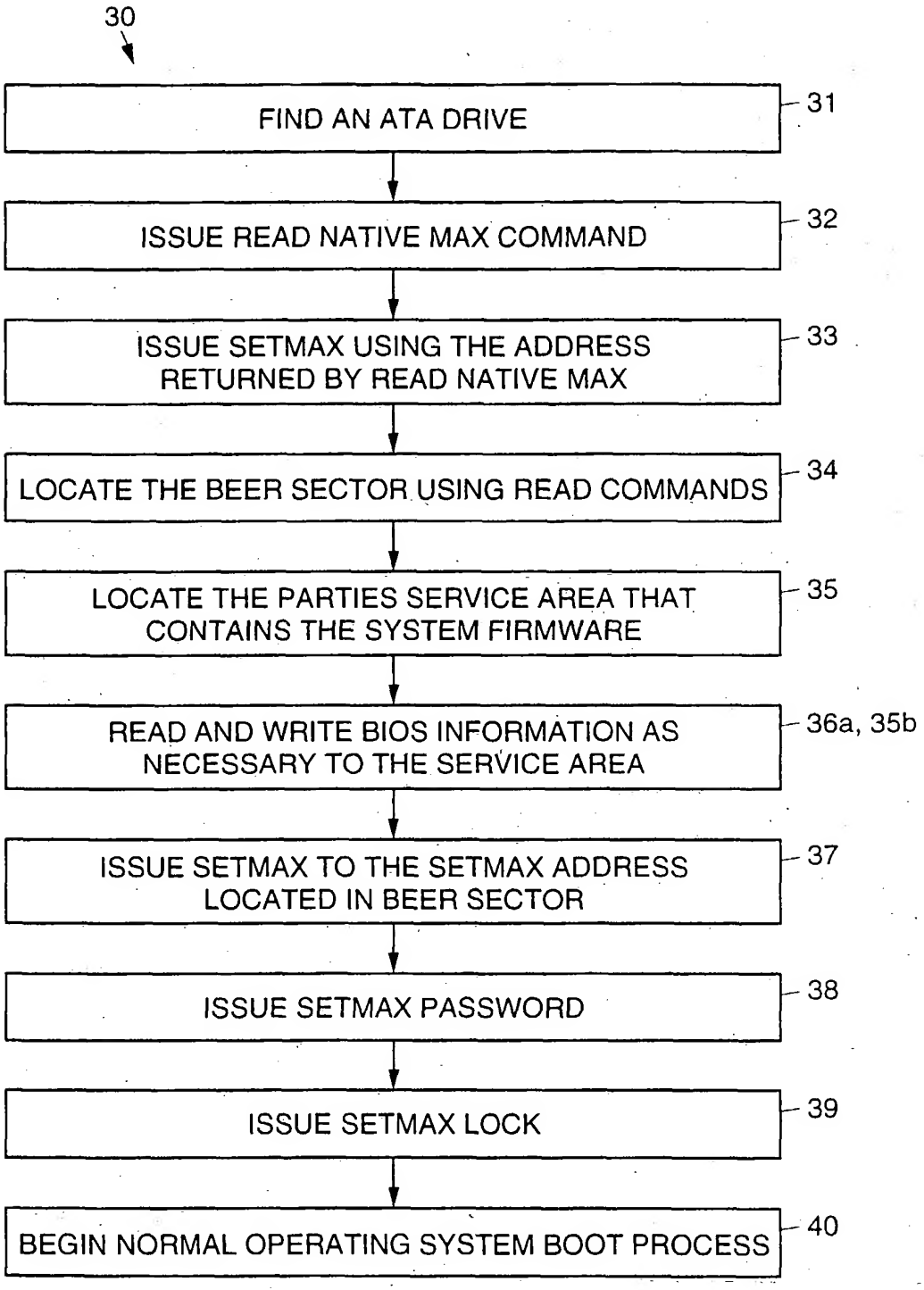
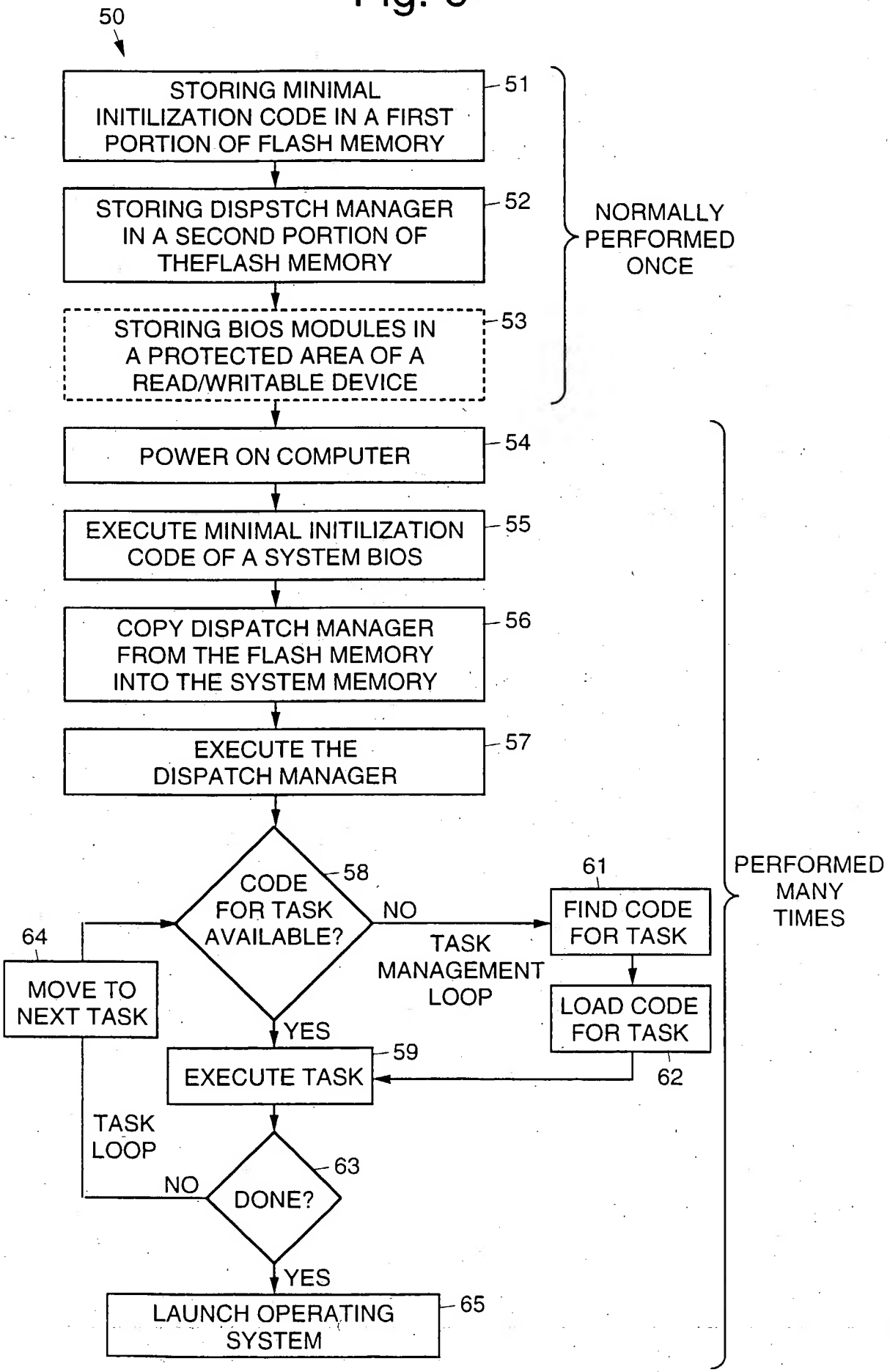

30
FIND AN ATA DRIVE
31
ISSUE READ NATIVE MAX COMMAND
32
ISSUE SETMAX USING THE ADDRESS RETURNED BY READ NATIVE MAX
33
LOCATE THE BEER SECTOR USING READ COMMANDS
34
LOCATE THE PARTIES SERVICE AREA THAT CONTAINS THE SYSTEM FIRMWARE
35
READ AND WRITE BIOS INFORMATION AS NECESSARY TO THE SERVICE AREA
36a, 35b
ISSUE SETMAX TO THE SETMAX ADDRESS LOCATED IN BEER SECTOR
37
ISSUE SETMAX PASSWORD
38
ISSUE SETMAX LOCK
39
BEGIN NORMAL OPERATING SYSTEM BOOT PROCESS
40

Fig. 6


50
STORING MINIMAL INITILIZATION CODE IN A FIRST PORTION OF FLASH MEMORY
51
STORING DISPSTCH MANAGER IN A SECOND PORTION OF THEFLASH MEMORY
52
STORING BIOS MODULES IN A PROTECTED AREA OF A READ/WRITABLE DEVICE
53
NORMALLY PERFORMED ONCE
POWER ON COMPUTER
54
EXECUTE MINIMAL INITILIZATION CODE OF A SYSTEM BIOS
55
COPY DISPATCH MANAGER FROM THE FLASH MEMORY INTO THE SYSTEM MEMORY
56
EXECUTE THE DISPATCH MANAGER
57
CODE FOR TASK AVAILABLE?
58
NO
YES
61
FIND CODE FOR TASK
LOAD CODE FOR TASK
62
TASK MANAGEMENT LOOP
64
MOVE TO NEXT TASK
EXECUTE TASK
59
TASK LOOP
NO
DONE?
63
YES
LAUNCH OPERATING SYSTEM
65
PERFORMED MANY TIMES